

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2002

Meeting Time 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

****Cedar River/Landsburg Dam****

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Tom Sibley (NMFS), Chuck Wischman (Puget Sound Anglers), Steve Foley (WDFW), Dennis Moore (MIT)

Other Participants: Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Linda DeBoldt (SPU), Bill Wells (SPU), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I) Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

II) Tour Landsburg Facilities and Improvements

From 9:30 to 11:30 members received a tour of Landsburg. The tour was lead by staff from SPU and WDFW and covered the completed rock drop structures at the aqueduct crossing, large woody debris placement, activities at the interim hatchery and broodstock holding facility, and improvements to the spillways at the dam.

III) Approval of agenda

Members approved the agenda distributed at the meeting.

IV) Meeting minutes review and approval from August 22, 2002

Members approved the minutes from August 22, 2002.

V) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Status of steelhead genetics proposal

Chuck updated members on a genetics study Anne Marshall of WDFW is putting together for Cedar River steelhead. He explained that the proposal would be available for members at the AFC meeting in October.

Status of proposal to release coho above Landsburg Dam

Bruce asked Chuck to brief members on the proposal to put adult coho above the Landsburg Dam this winter. A number of questions arose which need to be defined in the proposal. The committee asked for a written proposal for the October meeting.

Review draft letter to the Parties to the LMA reporting on the status and providing program recommendations.

Bruce reported to members that by September 29, 2002 the AFC needs to provide the Parties to the LMA a status report on interim mitigation measures for steelhead, coho, and chinook. Earlier in the year the AFC identified potential future interim mitigation projects and asked the co-managers to submit proposals under this program. The sentiment of the committee was to keep the funding available for support of future proposals, but at some point establish a date when uncommitted funds would default to habitat. At this time, there are two proposals under development that could receive interim funding. A proposal is being developed for genetic analysis of steelhead in the Cedar River as well as a proposal for placing adult coho above the Landsburg Dam this winter.

VI) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Otolith Collection Strategy

Bruce asked members for input with regards to the otolith collection scope of work provided by Steve Schroder (WDFW). He noted that earlier discussions of an alternative approach to otolith collection had little impact on the proposal for work this year and felt that it was important that this be resolved. He stated that otolith collection typically begins in the first part of October and time was very limited for making suggested changes to the methodologies. Members discussed the scope of work and voiced their reservations about using collection effort to tie carcass abundance with live counts. Members also felt that samples needed to be tied to population abundance at the time and area of collection, so proper expansion rates could be applied. AFC members expressed the desire to hear directly from the staff involved with otolith sampling to better understand the proposal.

Thermal Marking Strategy and Otolith collection

Bruce reported that the WDFW requested guidance from the AFC on thermal marking goals for the 2002 brood year sockeye hatchery fry. Last year the hatchery placed 27 codes on fry released from the facility and each code consisted of 3 to 12 marks, wide or narrow banding on the otolith. The program marked eight groups of fry in the rearing study with unique codes and coded all other fry released from the facility by location in the river and egg take timing. Paul F. provided members with a handout that contained three different options for thermal marking 2002 brood year fry as well as a proposed thermal marking strategy for the second year of the short-term rearing experiment. Members elected to continue with the rearing study and mark all other production fry by release location.

Weir Broodstock collection

Brodie reported that the rack was installed in the first week of September and began fishing the second week. Things were going well at the trap and the weather was cooperating. He noted that the weir crew was opercle punching chinook captured at the trap and passing them upriver. They were also recording length categories as whether the fish are larger or smaller than 80 cm.

Replacement Hatchery

EIS

Bruce distributed the Draft EIS Summary to members. He noted that full copies would be mailed to members that requested the full draft. A copy of the environmental review schedule was also provided to the members. Bruce wrapped up this item by briefing members on the developments with setting up public forum for the hatchery project scheduled for October 14.

VII) Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

There were no public comments.

VIII) Information and discussion items

Cedar River chinook and sockeye counts

Steve reported on the numbers of sockeye and chinook that are spawning in the Cedar River. Good numbers of sockeye and chinook are being counted, but the chinook numbers look like they will be lower than last year. He said that on Tuesday crews began counting (live and dead) sockeye and chinook in the Cedar. Survey crews were made up of staff from WDFW, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and SPU.

Orientation date for hatchery weir operations September 23rd at 8:00 AM

This item was confirmed with members.

Sockeye Feeding Draft Report by Dave Beauchamp et al

The draft paper was provided to members.

Highlights of meeting involving Drs. Beauchamp and Koenings regarding Lake Washington plankton dynamics and sockeye.

There was not enough time to discuss this item.

IX) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM